

PREFORMED METAL CROWN - THE HALL TECHNIQUE

What is it?

The Hall Technique is a method for managing decayed primary molars (back baby teeth) where the decay is sealed under a stainless-steel preformed metal crown, usually without local anaesthesia, tooth preparation or any removal of decay.



Aim of treatment?

To slow or arrest progression of decay in order to retain the tooth until it falls out naturally.



Why use Preformed Metal Crowns?

- Easy to place
- Durable
- Simple treatment
- Seal in the decay causing bacteria so it can't grow

When are they suitable?

- Small-medium decayed lesion
- Following pulp treatment
- Children with high caries rate
- Enamel/dentine defects

When are they not suitable?

- Children with poor cooperation
- If at risk from bacterial endocarditis
- Presence of an abscess
- Tooth close to falling out
- Not enough tooth material to retain the crown
- If unhappy with the aesthetics

What are separators?

Separators are small elastic bands which are often placed either side of the tooth to be crowned, for a maximum of 10 days in order to create space for the crown to fit properly.



Are there any disadvantages?

- The temporary open bite (usually resolves within first 2 weeks)
- The crown can come out
- Possible impaction of erupting adult molars
- Discomfort for the first few days (Calpol usually helps with this).